

**MINUTES OF THE  
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL  
August 13, 2014  
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA  
10:00 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Invocation was provided by Executive Director Allen Burns, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Harold Fowler, Linda Barker, Clyde Taylor, Edna Jackson, Jan Moore, Kelly Spratt, Shaw McVeigh, Jimmy Starline, Craig Root, Sean Register, William Miller, Dan Coty, Allen Brown, David Boland, Julie Martin, Margaret Evans, Tom Ratcliffe, Herb Jones, Jim Thomas, Priscilla D. Thomas, Donald Lovette, John Morrissey, Reggie Loper, Matthew Barrow, Chris Blaine, Pat Bazemore, and Robert Long.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jimmy Burnsed, Jason Coley, Ken Lee, Walter Gibson, Chap Bennett, Charles Wilson, Hugh Hodge, J.C. Warren, and Gwendolyn Davis.

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dorothy Glisson, Screven County and Ron Elliott, Fort Stewart.

**GUESTS:** John Holman, St. Marys; Chuck Scragg, Glynn County; Alyce Thornhill, GDECD; Stephen Ramos and Stephen Morgan, UGA; Maureen Hoke, O'Brien & Gere; Patrick Graham, CHA; Jackie Teel, MPC; Jennifer Fordham, DCA; Sandra Rayson, Woodbine, and Joe Parker, Jr., Freelance Reporter.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Allen Burns, Executive Director; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Lupita McClenning, Planning and Government Services Director; Dionne Lovett, Aging Services Director; Lauren Robesky, Economic Development Director, William Compton, Grant Specialists; Beatrice Soler, Senior Planner; Stephen Brown, GIS Analyst/Planner; Hunter Key, GIS Manager; Eric Landon, Senior Planner II; David Dantzler, Mobility Manager, and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

**Perfect Attendance:** Chairman Jim Thomas recognized William Miller, Long County Non-Public; Shaw McVeigh, Glynn County Non-Public; and Dan Coty, State Appointment, for having perfect attendance last year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Thomas requested approval of the minutes from the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion:** Mayor Margaret Evans  
**Second:** Chris Blaine  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of Non-Public and Ex-Officio Members** – *(See attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Chairman Thomas referred members to the blue handout. A motion was made to approve the Non-Public appointments as recommended by County.

**Motion:** Mayor Margaret Evans  
**Second:** Mayor Edna Jackson  
**Vote:** Unanimous

A motion was made to approve the Non-Public appointments that have not yet been recommended by Counties.

**Motion:** Reggie Loper  
**Second:** Priscilla Thomas  
**Vote:** Unanimous

A motion was made to approve the Ex-Officio appointments as listed.

**Motion:** Chairman Donald Lovette

**Second:** Reggie Loper

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Approval of Appointment/Reappointment to CADD Board** – *(See Attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* A motion was made to reappoint Chris Harper (McIntosh County) to the CADD Board of Directors.

**Motion:** Chairman Kelly Spratt

**Second:** Herb Jones

**Vote:** Passed

**Abstained:** Craig Root (Member of CADD and Southeastern Bank Board)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP)** – *(See Attachment 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Dr. Stephen J. Ramos, Assistant Professor, College of Environment and Design, UGA, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the SHEP. The College of Environment & Design at UGA received a two-year grant through the Georgia SeaGrant program to study the Savannah Harbor Expansion and the effects it will have on coastal counties. Dr. Ramos explained the process of the study. He and the project team are currently examining local comprehensive plans that are on the DCA website. Data from this study is to be used to update the Coastal Regional Plan. SHEP is projected to have a regional impact including transportation, economic development, and it's expected that the Brunswick port will see more traffic. There was brief discussion on the impacts of the harbor deepening. Dr. Ramos stated that due to the regional effects that the CRC is a perfect partner in this study. Dr. Ramos stated that the project team will be working with local planners and GIS technicians at the September 16<sup>th</sup> CRC Practicum at the Richmond Hill City Center. The CRC will send details closer to the date. Upon recommendation from the Council, Dr. Ramos stated he would invite representatives from the Savannah and Brunswick ports to attend the meeting. Dr. Ramos stated he would report to the CRC Council at the completion of the first year to provide an update, and to receive input and feedback.

**Complete Streets** – *(See Attachment 4, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Mr. John Bennett, Executive Director, Savannah Bicycle Campaign, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Complete Streets. In communities across Georgia and the country, a movement is growing for complete streets; specifically that cities and towns are asking their planners and engineers to build road networks that are safer, more livable, and welcoming to everyone. Instituting a Complete Streets policy ensures that transportation planners and engineers consistently design and operate the entire roadway with all users in mind – including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

A Complete Streets Policy ensures roads are safe and convenient for all users. Approximately 60% of individuals are interested in bicycling but due to safety concerns participate less in bicycling. A new Georgia law requires motorized vehicles to allow 3 feet between them and bicyclists when passing. Bicycling is important to both the older and younger populations and has economic benefits. The day-to-day decisions a transportation agency and community leaders make in funding, planning, design, maintenance, and operations should be aligned with the goals of an adopted Complete Streets policy.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Update on GARC** – None at this time.

**Update on LSEGA** – Mr. David Boland reported the 2014 Class has graduated and they are currently working on the 2015 Class. Mr. Boland Introduced Michelle Davis, Chairman of the LSEGA Board who expressed her appreciation for the partnership with the CRC. More information about LSEGA can be found on their website LSEGA.com and on Facebook. Mr. Boland encouraged counties to submit nominations so they could make sure to have a diversified group. Mayor Thomas encouraged cities/counties to sponsor younger candidates to attend this class as they will be our future leaders.

**DRI Reports:** None.

**Project Status Reports** - *(See Attachments 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*  
If anyone has any questions, please see staff after the meeting.

**CADDA Report:** No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 10, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – Chairman Thomas reported that he and Allen had received a draft copy of our performance audit. Most of the issues are policy based; however, there are a few areas that need improving and they are working on a response. Mr. Thomas stated this was our first performance audit since the 90's and we did not have any metrics to go by.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Perfect Attendance – during some discussions, I presented Team Coastal hats to Dan Coty and Shaw McVeigh. The winner of the CRC Logo football this year is William Miller.
- The Georgia Dept. of Audits audited three regional commissions (RCs) this year; they are having a difficult time grasping how three RCs can operate so differently and different than regular state departments. Each RC operates based on their communities' needs. They sent the draft reports and requested that we not make it available to our Council yet as it was still draft; they have requested our response by August 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Burns explained some of the recommendations and ratings from the audit. There was a lengthy discussion amongst council members regarding their concern that they were not provided with this draft report as well so they could have input on the response. Executive Director Burns stated he would provide the Council with their recommendations and our response. He and Chairman Thomas will also draft a letter to go along with the response. The Dept. of Audits is supposed to be forwarding the Final Report to all of them and to the legislators. A separate letter will be drafted and sent to our legislators.
- We received the CAFR Award for FY13.
- Field work on our Independent Audit will begin the last week of this month and we anticipate another unqualified opinion, just as we have received the last seven years.
- We received two NADO Innovation Awards: (1) McIntosh Unified Economic Development Plan and (2) Leadership Southeast Georgia.
- Attended the GMA Conference in Savannah.
- Attended the John McIver Auditorium dedication in Liberty County.

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- Will have another intern starting who will be working on Opportunity Zones. If anyone is interested, please see Lauren. The City of Brunswick is stepping out on this. DCA had pulled out of this program but is opening it back up again.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Margaret Evans invited everyone to attend the rededication of their football field next weekend to Major Charles Kelly a medevac-pilot who was killed in the Vietnam War. His son and two daughters will be in attendance and a 20-minute program has been planned with a monument to be unveiled.

Another discussion ensued on the Performance Audit Report. A motion was made to authorize the Chairman to draft and sign a resolution on behalf of the Council regarding the Draft Performance Audit not being provided to Council members.

**Motion:** Herb Jones  
**Second:** John Morrissey  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m., with lunch following.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**